



# **The Making of Non-Violent Men: Reflections from Work in Rio de Janeiro's *Favelas***

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# The *South Africa* within Brazil

***Social inequalities*** – race, social class, urban-rural, regional differences

***Progressive constitution*** with examples of citizen participation (in health, children's rights, women's rights)

***Examples of excellence in policy*** and implementation (National AIDS Program, workers' rights) along with ***structural deficits*** (prison system, health system)

***Fragility*** of public institutions

Vocal and accomplished ***women's rights movement***

Other ***vocal and accomplished social rights movement*** (MST, emerging ethnic rights movements, gay rights)

***And an African-descendant population that is disproportionately poor:*** Of 22 million Brazilians living below poverty line, 70% are black

# The Context of Violence in Brazil

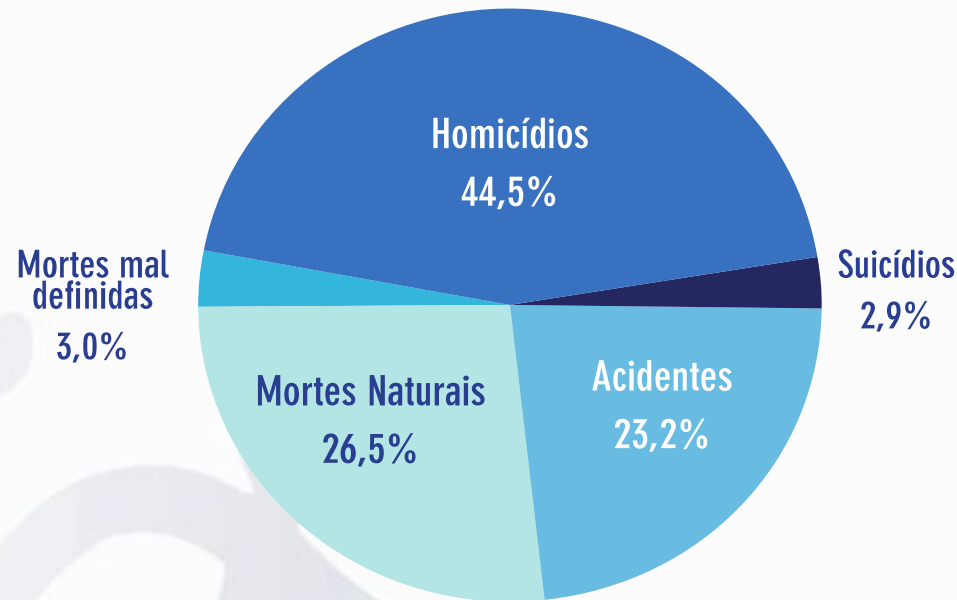
- Persistently high rates of homicide and other forms of violence
- Persistent but slightly decreasing income inequality
- Presently a boom economy with extremely skewed benefits

*Research showing that homicide and delinquency concentrated in larger cities, with highest rates of poverty, income inequality and female-headed households*



# Young People (12-18) Represent About a Third of Homicide Deaths in Brazil (2007)

Gráfico 2 – Distribuição das vidas de adolescentes perdidas por morte entre os 12 e os 18 anos, segundo Causa de Mortalidade – 2007



Fonte: Laboratório de Análise da Violência – LAV/UERJ – Sobre Dados do Sistema de Informação sobre Mortalidade – SIM/DATASUS – Ministério da Saúde

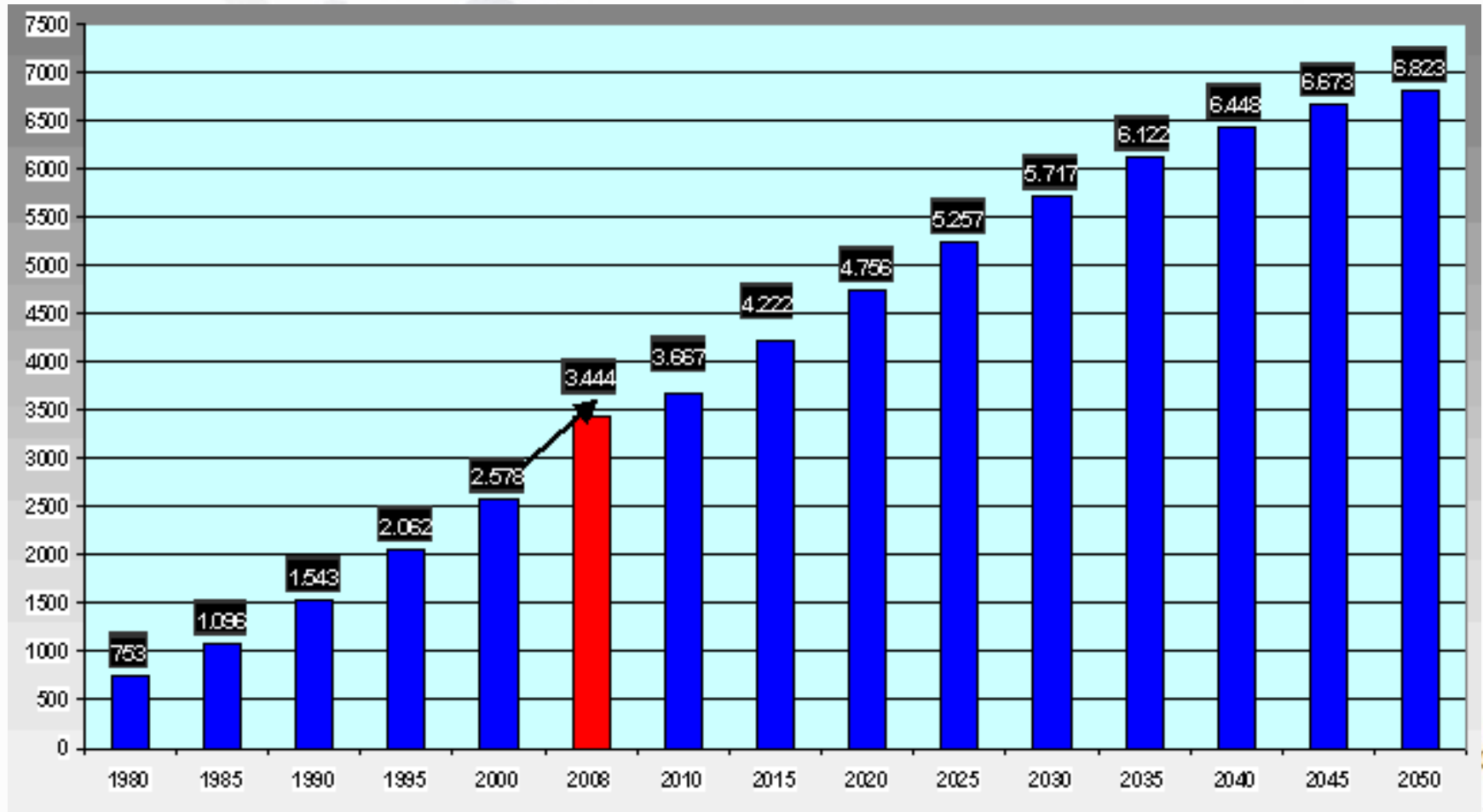
# Who Are the Victims of Homicide in Brazil?

- ◆ 13 males for every one female
- ◆ 3.74 black youth for every white youth
- ◆ 6 out of 7 killed by firearms
- ◆ ***Typical victim of homicide in Brazil is a young urban-based black man ages 18-24 with <7 years of education***

Who does the killing? **Almost no data on that**



## *Brazil's Missing Men* (IBGE, 2011): Effects of persistent, high rates of homicide and traffic accidents (in millions)



# Stress in the community, stress in the home and the “missing men”

*Gender and violence against children: Household sample Rio de Janeiro (Promundo, 2005, 559 parents in 3 RJ neighborhoods):*

- 35% of parents had used some form of physical violence in the past 3 months (36% for boys vs. 33.8% for girls)
- **Psychological violence more common against girls** 39.3% vs. 32.6%
- **Severe physical violence more common among boys** 16.8% vs 12.9%
- Impact evaluation of parent education intervention in the neighborhoods found that **household gender inequality (particularly lack of men’s presence in the home and lack of men’s participation in care work) was closely linked to family stress and in turn mother’s use of violence against children**



# Low Income Black Young Men Die – but the Middle Class is Scared

Percentage of the population in a national household survey (IPEA, 2010) who feel “much fear” about

Being killed.....	78,6%
Being robbed.....	73,7%;
Burglary.....	68,7%;
Being mugged .....	48,7%.

*This fear in one of the drivers of a public security response based on occupation of favelas by police, summary executions of suspects, limited accountability – mixed with infrastructure improvements and community development efforts*



# Life Under Police Rule Contributes to a Sense of Gendered Disempowerment

- ◆ Periodic occupation of *favelas* by militarized police (the latest related to FIFA World Cup and Olympic Games)
- ◆ Trading of one armed group for the other (out with the drug traffickers, in with ill-prepared police)
- ◆ Communities report harassment of young men, examples of summary executions (of young men) and harassment/sexual violence against women

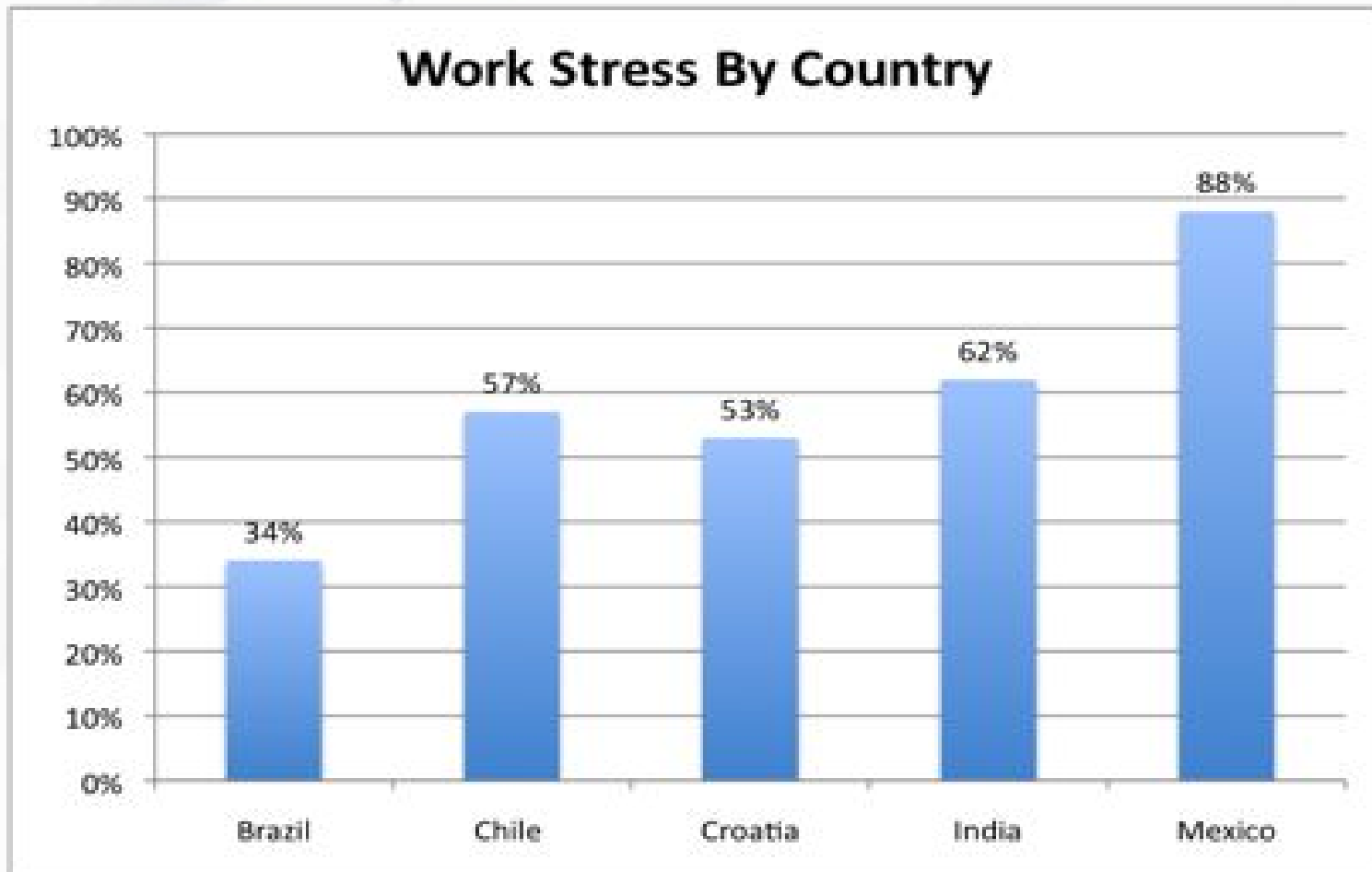


# Out of work and out of manhood

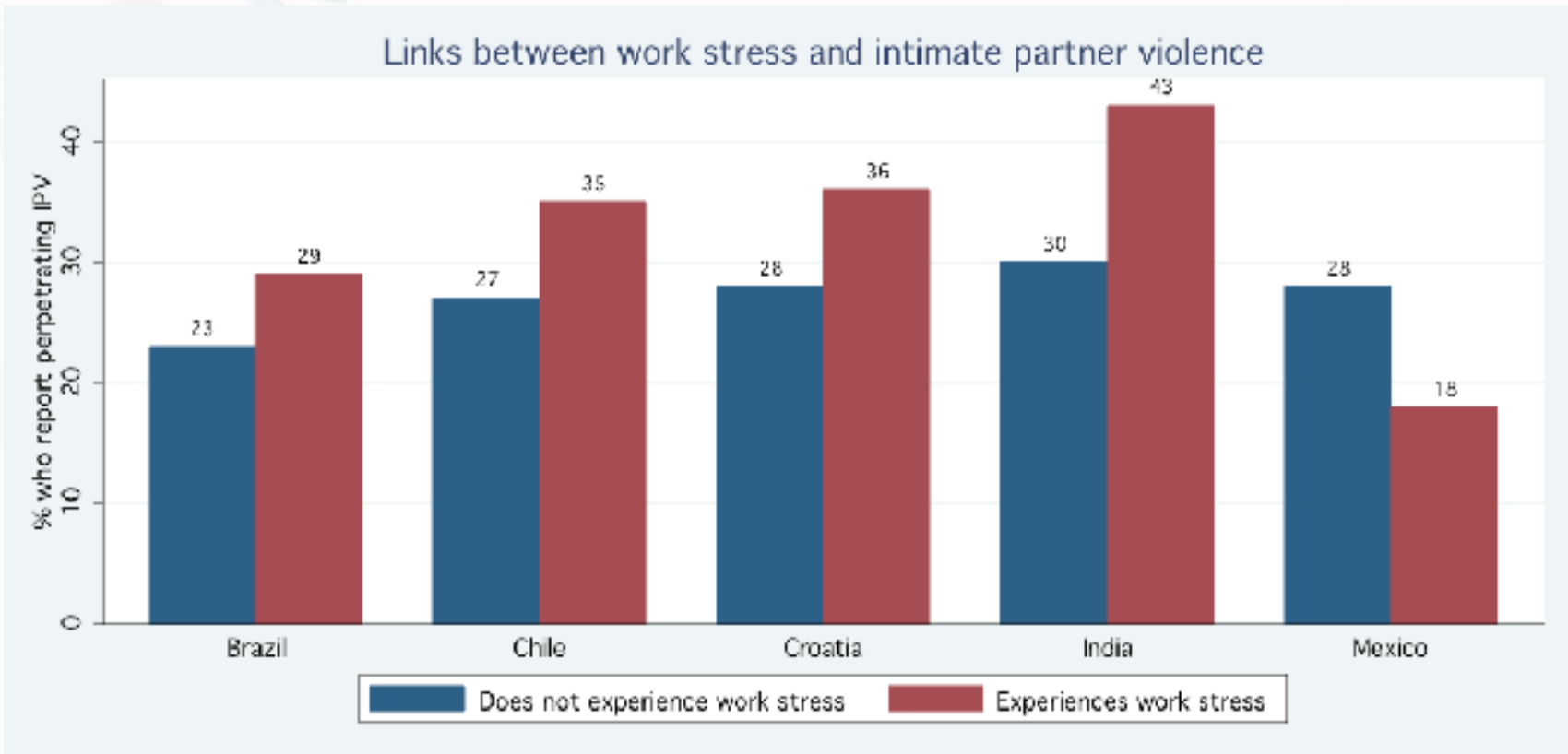
- Unemployment in *favelas* in Rio de Janeiro 12.4% vs. national rate of 7.3%
- Many young men 15-17 in informal sector; more boys out of school and working than girls (in urban and rural areas)
- **Structural barriers:** ILO study found that in poor communities, the wages of persons w/ 4 years of formal schooling nearly equal to those >11 years.
- **Limited return on education for those who faced class-based and race-based discrimination**



**Results from International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) Work-Related Stress: Brazil's reports lower because men told us "they were used to being without work"**



# Work stress and men's use of violence against women: *Is violence a compensation for loss of status/power?*



**Statistically significant relationship (at  $p < .05$  level) in Chile, Croatia, and India**

# Young Men's Lived Experiences of Work, Discrimination, Violence in the Home

- ◆ Single most important factor in men's use of violence against women was witnessing violence in home of origin
- ◆ High rates of being arrested or picked up by police (more than 30% in some communities)
- ◆ Nearly 40% experienced violence from a parent in the home; about the same experienced violence in community when growing up
- ◆ What factors reduce the chance that young men will repeat violence?





# *Why aren't more young men violent?*

## **Protective Factors for Youth Violence**

- **Alternative identities** or sense of self that was valued by young man and his social setting, particularly male peers (e.g. good student, good athlete, musical skills);
- **Reflection**: able to reflect about costs associated with violence; having experienced or witnessed violence and constructing positive meaning; able to express fear;
- **Pro-social peers**: finding alternative male peer group that provided positive reinforcement for non-violence;
- **Stable employment** that provides a sense of identity and enough income to start a family
- **Involved fatherhood**: finding a sense of identity in being a father
  
- ***First and foremost was having valued, tenacious and durable relationships: Someone they would let down if they got involved in violence***



# Recent Study: Reflections from Men in Caregiving Roles (2010 study: “Men Who Care”)

- Lack of male references for men doing care work
- Strong sense of identity in being fathers, caregivers for those who did take on the roles
- High awareness of contradictions in those they defined as “male role models”
- Challenge of women accepting men in new care roles





# Reflections from Men in Caregiving Roles

- Resistance in the workplace to men doing care work: Day care, nursing
- The loneliness of men's care work and "men who care"
- Lack of references for close friendships with other men:  
*"There are times we [men] have to be cared for...I think that habit of asking about one another, closeness...this difficulty to maintain a relationship with a man continues. I continue to ask myself about that."*



# Where to from here for low income young men (and women) in Brazil?

- Difficult to engage low income men in the gender equality agenda if they don't feel their own vulnerabilities are included
- Men are doing more care work than acknowledged but clearly not enough
- Relative invisibility of men's vulnerabilities on the policy agenda
- Persistence of a population of low income, under-educated young men with high levels of conflict with public security
- Their needs and realities directly related to women's and children's
- In the rush for oil, the World Cup and the Olympics – will these issues get lost?

